

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a generally planar polymer component for use in a high pressure electrochemical cell; and
a polymer composite band integrated with the polymer component and encircling a perimeter edge of the component, wherein the polymer composite band has an elasticity that minimizes deformation of the component by pressurized fluids, comprises reinforcing fibers mixed with a polymer binder.
2. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the component is press-fit into the band.
3. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the band is made from a metal or a polymer.
4. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the band is formed around the component.
5. (canceled) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the generally planar component is a polymer component.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the pressurized fluids press against the polymer component and the polymer component presses outward against the polymer composite band.
7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the pressurized fluids impart a force against the polymer composite band that puts the polymer composite band in tension.
8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of generally planar polymer components and a plurality of polymer composite bands, each polymer composite band encircling one of the plurality of polymer components.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of electrochemical cells and a plurality of the polymer composite bands,
wherein each polymer composite band encircling a respective one of the plurality of
electrochemical cells.
10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of sub-stacks and a plurality of polymer composite bands, each polymer
composite band encircling one of the plurality of sub-stacks.
11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polymer composite band
comprises ~~aromatic~~ polyamide fibers.
12. (canceled) An electrochemical cell, comprising:
a stack of generally planar components each having a perimeter edge, wherein the
components include at least one polymer frame for containing reactant fluids; and
a band extending around the perimeter of the stack of components to reinforce the
polymer frame against deforming under the pressure of the reactant fluids.
13. (canceled) The cell of claim 12, wherein the stack of components includes an
electronically conductive bipolar plate.
14. (canceled) The cell of claim 13, wherein the bipolar plate has a perimeter edge that is
radially inward from the perimeter edge of the polymer frames.
15. (canceled) The cell of claim 14, wherein the band is electrically conductive.
16. (canceled) The cell of claim 12, wherein the band is wound around the perimeter edge of
the stack of components.

17. (canceled) The cell of claim 12, wherein the band is positioned around the perimeter of the stack.
18. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polymer component comprises substantially the same polymer material as the polymer binder.